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By  
1/13/04  
H. K. K. K.  
Docket No. 56,373-RCE (70840)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: A. Tagawa, et al.

Group:

2673

Serial No. 09/923,627

Examiner:

Said, M.

Filed: August 7, 2001

Confirmation No.:

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**CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.10\***  
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Technology Center 2600

I hereby certify that this correspondence and the documents referred to as attached therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on this date December 30, 2003 in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee," mailing Label Number EV342587996 US addressed to Box: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Eileen M. Woodbury

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Eileen M Woodbury

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**Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

The following is in response to the Final Official Action mailed October 3, 2003 and Advisory Action mailed December 11, 2003 in connection with the above-referenced application.

The Applicants believe that no extension of time is required since this response is being filed before the expiration of the specified time period. The Applicants, however, conditionally petition for a further extension of time to provide for the possibility that such a petition has been inadvertently overlooked and is required. As provided below, charge Deposit Account **04-1105** for any required fee.